

REMARKS

This Supplemental Amendment is being made in view of the allowable subject matter indicated on page 8 of the Office Action mailed on March 18, 2005, for the purpose of expediting prosecution and placing the application in condition for allowance. In the previous Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 13, 14 and 20 included allowable subject matter that would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the base claim and all intervening claims.

By the above Supplemental Amendment, claim 7 has been further amended to include the subject matter of canceled claim 13, and claim 14 has been amended to depend from claim 7. Essentially, claim 7 is claim 13 rewritten in independent form, and is thus believed to be in condition for allowance. In addition, claims 8-12 and 14-16 are believed to be in condition for allowance at least by virtue of their dependence from base claim 7.

Furthermore, claim 20 has been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of canceled claims 17 and 19. As such, claim 20 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Moreover, claims 18 and 21-22 are believed to be in condition for allowance at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 20.

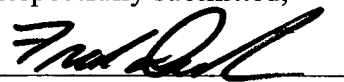
Finally, previously added claim 23 includes the subject matter of original claims 13 and 7 written in independent form and is thus believed to be in condition for allowance.

Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the pending obviousness rejections for at least those reasons presented in Applicants' previously filed Amendment, the above claim amendments are believed to have rendered such obviousness rejections moot. Moreover, the pending claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are believed to have been rendered moot in view of the previous claims amendments and in further view of the current

supplemental claim amendments.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all pending claim rejections and place the application in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone or personal interview may facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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